



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES
ANDREW JACKSON BUILDING, 15TH FLOOR
500 DEADERICK STREET
NASHVILLE, TN 37243**

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 30, 2006

TO: Kathleen Clinton
John Craven
Cate Newbanks

FROM: Stephen H. Norris
Deputy Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SHN", written over the name "Stephen H. Norris".

SUBJECT: Benzodiazepines and Barbiturates

The Division of Mental Retardation Services is extending its state-funded coverage for benzodiazepines and barbiturates for the month of February 2006.

This memo does not apply to adults who are Medicare-Medicaid dual eligibles. For a dual eligible, please refer to the January 30, 2006, memo entitled "Medicare Part D."

The DMRS-funded coverage for benzodiazepines and barbiturates will be:

1. Applicable for dates of service February 1, 2006, through February 28, 2006;
2. Available only for adults (age 21 years or older) who are:
 - a. Enrolled in a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver for individuals with mental retardation (i.e., "Arlington" waiver #0357.90, "Statewide" waiver #0128.90.R2A, "Self-Determination" waiver #0427); or
 - b. Currently state-funded by the Division of Mental Retardation Services; and
3. Used to provide reimbursement for up to a 1-month supply of a medically necessary benzodiazepine or barbiturate dispensed during February 2006. (A brand name drug is excluded if the generic form of the drug is available.)

In order to obtain reimbursement, the provider agency or individual will need to submit documentation to the Regional Director in the DMRS Regional Office regarding the amount paid to the pharmacy as well as information about the specific drug (drug name, drug strength, drug form, # of units dispensed, date dispensed; prescription number). The DMRS Regional Director will forward such documentation to Assistant Deputy Commissioner Fred Hix in the DMRS Central Office.

DMRS Regional Directors should notify provider agencies that state-funded coverage for benzodiazepines and barbiturates has been extended through the month of February 2006.

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If you have any questions, please contact Louis Moore, M.D., Medical Director for Policy and Governmental Relations, at (615) 741-6632.

SHN:wlm

cc: Fred Hix
Larry Latham, Ph.D.
Joanna Damons, R.N.
Adadot Hayes, M.D.
Walton Louis Moore, M.D.